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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for the stripping of entrained and/or adsorbed hydrocarbons from particulate material, said apparatus comprising:

a stripping vessel;

at least one port defined by the stripping vessel for receiving particles that contain entrained or adsorbed hydrocarbons from the contact of the particles with a hydrocarbon stream and for withdrawing stripping fluid and stripped hydrocarbons from the stripping vessel;

a plurality of sloped stripping baffles spaced apart vertically over at least a portion of the stripping vessel height with each baffle of said plurality of sloped stripping baffles having a sloped surface, each baffle having a top section proximate a top edge of said baffle and a bottom section proximate a bottom edge of said baffle, said top section and said bottom section being demarcated by [[an]] a first imaginary line extending laterally on said baffle and substantially parallel to one of said top edge, said bottom edge and [[an]] a second imaginary line bifurcating said baffle into equal areas;

a plurality of openings on the top section of said baffle and a plurality of openings on the bottom section of said baffle, a ratio of the total area of openings in the bottom section to the area of the bottom section of [[the]] said baffle being greater in the bottom section of said baffle than [[in]] a ratio of the total area of openings in the top section to the area of the top section of said baffle;

at least one fluid inlet for passing a stripping fluid to the underside of at least one stripping baffle for stripping hydrocarbons from the particulate material; and

at least one particle outlet for recovering stripped particles from the stripping baffles.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least one port comprises a single opening at the top of the stripping vessel for receiving particles and withdrawing stripping gas and stripping fluid.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each stripping baffle has a transverse projection equal to at least one-third of the minimum transverse cross-section of the stripping vessel at that baffle location.

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Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a total area of openings in the bottom section is greater than in the top section of said baffle.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein an average distance between adjacent openings is smaller in the bottom section of the baffle than in the top section of the baffle.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein openings in the bottom section and top section of said baffle are distributed in rows substantially parallel to one of said top and bottom edges.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first imaginary line bifurcates said baffle into equal areas.